

FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School  
160 Foster Center Road  
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010  
Open Session - 7:00 pm

**1. Convene Meeting –**

Mr. Cervasio, Chair, call the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order at 7:00 pm.

a. Roll Call – Ron Cervasio, Chair, Dennis Chretien, member, Dr. Davida Irving, Superintendent / Principal, Greg Piccirilli, Legal Counsel and Mrs. McCullough, School Committee Secretary were present. Cindy Bernard, Vice Chair was absent. At this point Mr. Cervasio moved items c & d after item #4.

b. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. Requests to Use School Facilities**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee approved the Building Use Request submitted by Swamp Meadow Theater for weekly meeting in Mrs. Murphy's classroom after school and for rehearsals and performances scheduled. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee approved the Minutes from October 26, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

**4. Approval of Warrants**

On a motion by Mrs. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee approved the Warrant dated October 26, 2010 in the amount of \$7,982.89 and \$300.00. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

Mr. Cervasio called for the swearing in of the new School Committee at this time.

c. Swearing in of School Committee –

Tina Freeman, Town Clerk, swore in the new Committee members, Kathleen Swanson, Shelley Pezza, and Patricia Fountain.

After the swearing in, Dr. Irving thanked the former School Committee members for their hard work and dedication. Mrs./ Swanson also expressed her appreciation to the former School Committee members.

d. Reorganization of School Committee –

Patricia Fountain made a motion with Shelley Pezza seconding to appoint Kathleen Swanson as School Committee Chair. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Kathleen Swanson made a motion with Patricia Fountain seconding to appoint Shelley Pezza as Vice Chair. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Dr. Irving welcomed the three new School Committee members. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Mrs. Swanson,, the Foster School Committee adopted “Robert’s Rules” as a platform for operating the School Committee meeting. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

## **5. Old Business (for discussion/action)**

### **a. Budget 2010-2011 –**

Malcolm Moore, Business Manager, gave the School Committee a quick overview of the current budget. He explained some of the figures and gave explanations of different pages such health benefits, pensions and the steps that Teachers are on but was unsure of how much the Committee wanted to go over at this time. Should any member have any questions just give him a call.

### **b. Intercom Bid –**

Dr. Irving explained to the School Committee that the intercom bid had been tabled from the October meeting in order to explore more areas to cover the cost of the overages of the bid, i.e. at the Foster Financial meeting \$10,000 was approved through Capital Expenditures but the bid came through at \$11,600, leaving a deficit of \$1,600. She explained that inquiries had been done to explore if a grant was available to apply for either through Red Cross or Home Land Security. Grants were available through HLS for 2010 but had already been awarded in the month of September 2010. Further discussion followed after the Superintendent recommended the School Committee approve awarding the bid to Uncle’s Sound System, Inc. in the amount of \$11,600 minus \$1,160 which is a 10% discount and can be applied if the system is ordered before December 25, 2010, now leaving a deficit of \$440 and deducting this amount from Building and Grounds. On a motion Mrs. Swanson that Uncle’ Sound System, Inc. be awarded the bid for the intercom system for Captain Isaac Paine Elementary School to Uncle’s Sound system, Inc. the bid is for \$11,600 minus \$1,160 (10% discount coupon if intercom is purchased before December 25, 2010). The Town Council approved \$10,000 for the capital expense of purchasing the intercom. The remaining amount of \$440 will be taken from the budget for Building and Grounds. Ms. Pezza seconded. Mrs. Swanson called for discussion. Safety is a concern for students and staff due to the intermittent operation of the existing system. A question of re-wiring was brought up and is it included in the intercom bid or is the bid just for the purchase of the intercom equipment. An audience member volunteered to read through the bid to see if that was covered and the School Committee voted to table the original motion on a Fountain / Pezza motion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

## **6. Communication/Reports**

### **a. Correspondence –**

Dr. Irving read a letter from Swamp Meadow Theater requesting a reduction of 20% required to pay for using the school for their performances. For the first time the SMT lost money at the door (only \$2100). They asked for donations, which resulted in \$226.00 which is only 10.7%. The Superintendent recommended the School Committee approved the reduction. As this recommendation was under Communications, the School Committee could not act and this will be placed on the December agenda.

### **b. Superintendent's Report –**

Dr. Irving welcomed the new School Committee and informed everyone that they all attended ‘School Committee 101’ together. After school programs are being worked on and will start up in January. In the past these programs were free and were funded through a grant but due to expenses there will be fee charged. A ‘Scope of Work’ has been submitted to RIDE for ‘Race to the Top’ and have been accepted. Commissioner Gist will be visiting the school

February 16, 2011 and meeting with the School Committee, teachers, staff and parents. There are four meetings scheduled; Technology Committee, Building Committee, School Improvement Team, and Wellness Committee.

c. Public Comment –

Comment – Mrs. Fountain volunteered to write an article for the Foster Home Journal outlining the scope and the dates for the above mentioned Committees.

Comment – Tina Freeman, Town Clerk, wished the new School Committee members success over the next two years. Any needs, Town Hall was available to them.

Question – Mr. Whitelaw asked if meetings were going to continue on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Yes. Mr. Piccirilli interjected the Committee usually defaults to the established system.

5b. Intercom Bid

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the School Committee voted to place the “Intercom Bid” back on the table for discussion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. The question of the bid including all the wiring was included in the bid under ‘infrastructure, cable hardware and equipment as defined/installed to provide a complete and operational system.’ After no further discussion, Mrs. Swanson called for a vote on the original motion. Motion passed. . Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

d. Future Agenda Items

Buy Board – suggested by Mr. Chretien

Communication system of First Student – Mrs. Fountain

Swamp Meadow Theater - fee easement

Bullying Policy – Ms. Pezza

Community Feedback – Mrs. Swanson

Truancy Policy – Dr. Irving

Mrs. Fountain requested (not necessarily a Future Agenda Item) names and positions of non-contractual employees. In the Business Manager’s report an overview of monies in surplus, cash reserve or line items that demonstrate overages. Also, an update (possibly in Executive Session) of the current arbitration.

Public Comment Policy – School Committee

**7. Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5a (1) Personnel.**

This motion was made by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain. Motion passed.

Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the School Committee voted to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson announced that the School Committee voted to appoint Mr. Robert Wallace as Interim-Superintendent/Principal of the Foster School Department. The Committee approved the medical leave request for Dr. Irving due to illness and Mr. Wallace will cover during her absence. Dr. Irving explained that she has lung cancer and will be out from December 1, 2010 to January 11, 2011.

The votes to amend two paragraphs in Dr. Irving's contract were reported out at the December 21, 2010 meeting.

**8. Adjournment –**

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the School Committee voted to adjourn at 9:57 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee